IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

SPRING ISSUE

March 2015

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Charitable No.
80487 0087 RR0001

9 member
Board of Directors

church@IrondaleOntario.ca

Irondale Church for your next function?
Rental Information Contact
Glenda 705-447-2679 or
Carol 705-457-8438

Irondale Community Centre

Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

centre@IrondaleOntario.ca

~Rentals~

Rentals for the centre or the big tent can be booked thru Barry Simmons
705-447-2380

I.B.O. GENERAL STORE

Carrying on the retail tradition that began with Peter Barr circa 1873

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROPRIETORS
MARK & HEATHER PENMAN

A TV celebrity in our midst.

Some of you may be aware, a bus had been organized to take interested people to the Newmarket Legion on January 4. The event was a special Sunday service at Rev. Dorian Baxter's church with a potluck lunch and music concert afterwards.
The bus never happened for reasons beyond our control, though a couple car loads did make the trip.

When Rev. Baxter was here in November, he told Glenda Simmons that she could read for him anytime. Glenda took him up on the offer and read a special passage for the congregation that same Sunday. There were television cameras and crews at every turn. Some of you may have caught the short excerpts on the 11pm news that day or the next. Did anyone tape the segment? Would be great to have in our archives.

Plein Air Arts Festival — Sept 4 to 7, 2014

Remember when the weather was warmer and no snow on the ground?

Last September many artists traveled from other parts to the Highlands East Plein Air Arts Festival.

Plein air simply means to paint outdoors — A great tradition in Ontario, plein air is enjoying a renaissance as more and more artists and hobbyists want to be inspired by the wild and natural world.

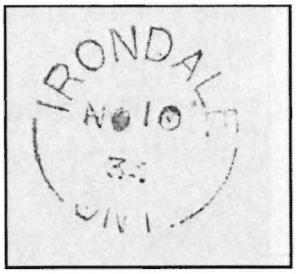
The Festival offered thirteen different sites for the participants to choose from. Furnace Falls and the Irondale Church were two of the sites offered.
The photo in the top right of this article shows one artist's supplies set up at the church.
On Sunday, the final day of the Festival, the paintings are displayed at the Wilberforce Community Centre from 12—4 pm. The artists are on hand to chat with visitors. They love to share their weekend experiences. They are always most appreciative of the scenery and hospitality that the Highlands offers.

Artist, Selene Yuen, seen to the left, painted the Irondale Church, as did two other artists. Their paintings are shown on page two.

Most of the paintings show are for sale. I just had to take this one, seen on the right, home with me. The colours appealed to me, as did the technique.
It reminded me of the old English paintings, which I love. Great souvenir of a fantastic event.

The 2015 Highlands East Plein Air Arts Festival will be held September 10 to 13.
Mark your calendars to take in the Sunday show.

History of the Post Office

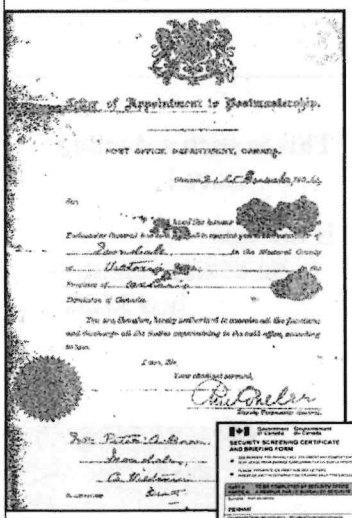


During the French régime there was no postal service in Canada, except a system of official couriers, established in 1721, between Quebec and Montreal, whose chief duty was to carry government dispatches, but who carried also private letters. With the British conquest, however, Canada came under the British post-office, which had been established as early as the end of the seventeenth century, and which early extended its operations to the British colonies in North America. A post-office was established in Halifax in 1755, and postal communication was opened with both Boston and London; and in 1763 post-offices were opened in Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal, with communication by means of courier between Montreal and New York. Later, when the thirteen colonies to the south had declared their independence, a deputy postmaster-general was appointed for the remaining British North American colonies, with headquarters in Quebec ; and the postal arrangements in British North America continued to be under his control, as a subordinate of the postmaster-general in Great Britain, until the middle of the nineteenth century.

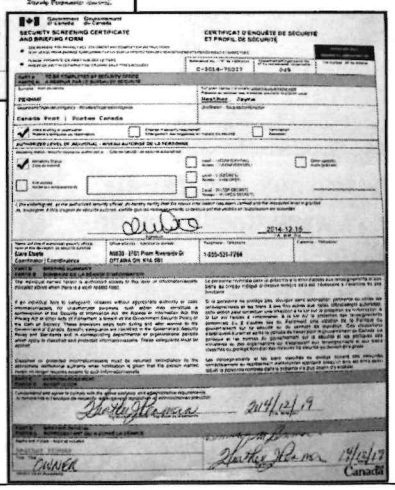
This state of affairs gave rise to grave complaints. It meant that the people of British North America had no voice in the control of their own postal service. The deputy postmaster-general at Quebec was independent even of the governor-general of Canada ; and could alone decide where post offices were to be established. The years between 1783 and 1850 saw, it is true, a remarkable development of the post office in British North America. In 1788 communication was opened overland by courier between. Quebec and Halifax.

In 1792 a postal convention was concluded with the United States, whereby the United States post-office engaged to act as the intermediary for the conveyance of mails between Canada and Great Britain. York (Toronto) had a post office as early as 1800; and between 1816 and 1827 the number of post-offices in Upper and Lower Canada increased from 19 to 114. These were mainly on a trunk line of communication between Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, York, Amherstburgh, with routes branching off to such places as Sherbrooke, St. John's, Hull, Hawkesbury, Perth, and Richmond - over which couriers travelled at varying intervals. But many pioneer communities remained without a postal service. As late as 1835, for example, the settlers at Barrie, on lake Simcoe, had to travel forty miles to the nearest post-office, at Newmarket. The postal rates were, moreover, exorbitantly high. One hundred years ago it cost nine-pence to send a letter consisting of a single folded sheet of paper from Montreal to York (Toronto), and over four shillings from York to England, by way of Halifax. If there were more than one sheet of paper the charge was four times as great. The charge on newspapers was four shillings a copy per annum; and it was one of the anomalies of those times that the revenue

(continued page 10)



Peter A. Barr's Letter of Appointment in 1904


SECURITY SCREENING CERTIFICATE AND BRIEFING FORM
CERTIFICAT D'ENQUÊTE DE SÉCURITÉ ET PROFIL DE SÉCURITÉ
Canada Post | Postes Canada
OWNER

Heather Penman's Letter of Appointment in 1914

Name of Postmaster	Military Status	Date of Appoint	Date of Vacancy	Cause of Vacancy
J. C. Lindsay				
Peter Barr		1874-02-01	1903-01-08	Resignation
Peter A. Barr Jr.		1904-08-03	1911-06-14	Resignation
F. G. Vanderlip		1911-10-19	1912	Resignation
William Rumble		1913-01-22	1913-11-04	Resignation
Percy H. Proctor		1913-12-09	1948-09-02	Death
William H. Proctor	OAS	1948-09-15	1963-06-01	Resignation
Beatrice K. Hancock		1963-07-01		
Anne-Marie Hancock				Resignation
Heather Penman		2014-12-19		

Sources used:
Library & Archives Canada; Canada Post Offices 1755-1895 by Frank W. Campbell; Official Postal Guide Canada January 1885

Canada Science and Technology Museum

In September of 2014, Ron Barr, Fred and Carol Simmons drove to Ottawa to see the collection known as the "Howland Collection".

This collection consists of

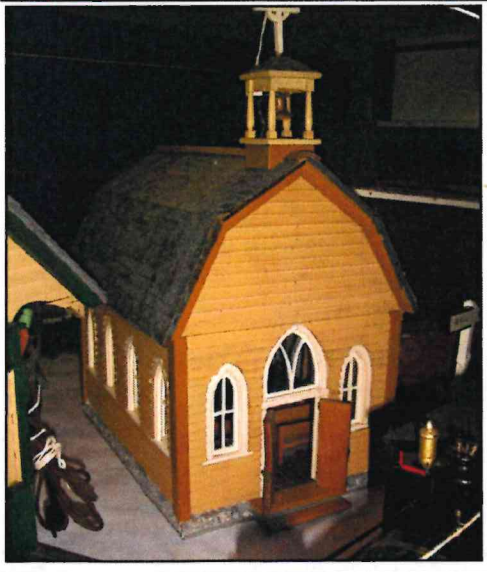
- a train model of the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa railway (115 pieces of train sections, buildings and track sections)
- Photo album with 27 photos
- Various documents, reports, a map & a lease
- 16 various train passes

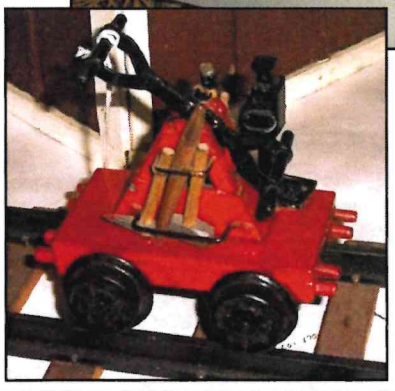
Carol had been corresponding with some of the curatorial staff for over a year, wanting to stay abreast as to when the collection would be on display. The collection is generally packed away, stored safely and unavailable for public viewing.

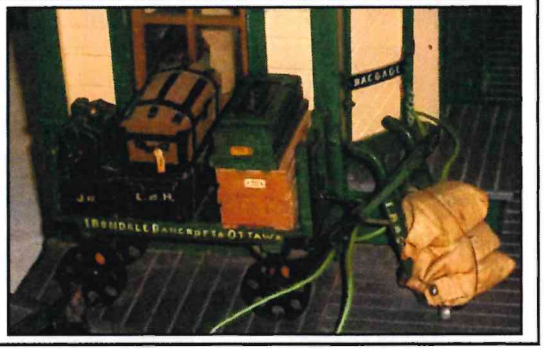
Once she received word that it was on display, she began looking for others interested in travelling to Ottawa and back. Ron Barr and Fred were the only ones ready to travel.

It was arranged that a gentleman known as "Railway Bob" would meet the threesome at the museum. Railway Bob has a website www.railwaybob.com that you may want to check out. Railway Bob gets his name honestly. He covers eight of the railways of Eastern Ontario, always willing to learn & collect more research.

Preliminary talks are in place regarding the possibility of Irondale hosting this collection for a short time in Irondale. We will keep you posted, if that should happen.







Whole Lotta Shakin' going on ....

World renown Elvis Tribute Artist, Dorian Baxter, performed his Elvis Priestly persona along with the Fabulous Van Rosi Band to raise funds for the Bark Lake Cultural Developments on Saturday, November 29.

Ticket holders were transported back to the 50s — many reliving their teenage years —with the decorations and music.
Fred Simmons and his faithful kitchen staff prepared a fabulous Christmas dinner. Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, two vegetables, stuffing, and gravy—all followed with homemade pies. The organizers wish to thank the fabulous pie bakers. Kudos to those that stepped up to the plate.

The Van Rosi band provided dance music throughout the evening as well as backing Elvis with his show. Their were cds available for those that wanted to purchase 'souvenirs' and care the music home to be played again at a later date.

Photo by Matt D - Highlander Newspaper

Six couples took the opportunity to renew their vows with Elvis Priestly (Rev. Dorian Baxter) officiating, receiving a souvenir certificate to remember the occasion.

That was the Saturday night. The excitement didn't stop there. Sunday brought excitement of a different kind.

In his capacity as The Archbishop of the Independent Anglican Church of Canada, Rev. Dorian Baxter conducted an historic Church Service in the Irondale's heritage church. Voices joined in the singing of the various hymns with the Van Rosi's musical accompaniment. It was easy to follow the elements of the service using the souvenir bulletins that were handed out. Rev Baxter's sermon touched the many that attended.

Coffee, tea and delicious goodies were offered after the 10 am service. Many stayed to enjoy them as well as intimate one on one conversations with Rev Baxter and the Van Rosis.

People are still talking about the night Elvis supported Irondale Church.

Dorian invites you to a Music-Packed Evening
"A Music Extravaganza"
- himself as Elvis, also doing Cliff Richard, Dean Martin & Bing Crosby
- Peter Marino will be doing Engelbert & Bocelli
- Ron Cormier (Bill Hayley's Canadian Drummer) will also be there
- close to 20 talented musicians and every genre of music including Blues, Rock 'n Roll, Country, Gospel, etc.

Doors open 7pm to 11pm *$20 per person*
Light refreshments *for tickets call 905-895-5575*
Royal Canadian Legion, 707 Srigley St., Newmarket, ON

Community Dinners ... Coming Up

Fish n' Fowl Dinner

Gooderham Community Centre
April 11, 2015
Doors open 5pm Dinner 6pm

great food ~ great friends ~ great times
Bring your loonies ~ Be Prepared to raise your hand

$20 per person
16 yrs & under ~ free

For tickets
call/text 705-457-8438,
drop into the IBO General Store
or online www.IrondaleOntario.ca

Annual
Victorian Tea
Saturday June 13, 2015
Two sittings ~ 11:30 am & 1:15 pm

Reservations necessary
705-457-8438 or historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

Enjoy fancy sandwiches, fresh scones, preserves, fresh fruits, dainty desserts, served on 3 tiered plates, china teacups, cloth napkins, with appropriate entertainment

Hosted this year at Wild Swan Bed & Breakfast Inn

65 Invergordon Street, Minden
rst right immediately over the bridge in Minden

Wild Game Dinner

Galway Hall, Galway Road
(just south of Kinmount)

$20 per person

Saturday July 18, 2015

Doors open 5:00 Dinner 6:00

Bring your loonies for added fun!

Purchase your tickets:
IBO General Store, Irondale
Gateway Variety, Kinmount
Call / text 705-457-8438
or online www.IrondaleOntario.ca

Irondale Community Centre's Annual Dinner

Lots of Auction Fun
A Not To Be Missed Event!

Stay tuned for more information!

VISIT
www.IrondaleOntario.ca